

coincide with the airflow through and/or pressure drop across in the first direction once the contact with the dose or container retaining the dose is broken.

Claim 22. (Amended) A dose protector as claimed in claim 1 wherein the covering means vibrates in the airflow through and/or pressure drop across the airway in the first direction.

Claim 23. (Amended) A dose container as claimed in claim 1 wherein the housing contains a valve flap such that when the airflow is in a second opposite direction, the airflow exits the housing by means of the valve flap.

Claim 24. (Amended) A dose protector as claimed in claim 1 wherein the said covering means protects the dose from the patient exhaling into the device, moisture contamination, particulate contamination and loss of the dose or a combination thereof.

Claim 25. (Amended) A dose protector as claimed in claim 1 additionally comprising a fixed seal.

Claim 26. (Amended) A dose protector as claimed in claim 1, in combination with a dose of medicament.

Claim 27. (Amended) An inhaler comprising a body, a mouthpiece, and a dose protector as claimed claim 1.

Claim 29. (Amended) An inhaler as claimed in claim 26 in combination with at least one dose of a medicament.

Claim 30. (Amended) Use of an inhaler as claimed in claim 27 for the administration of medicament.

REMARKS/ ARGUMENTS

This application is an U.S. National Phase application of PCT/GB00/00919 filed via the Patent Cooperation Treaty under 37 CFR 371. Claims 1-30 are currently pending.

The Title has been amended herein to more appropriately describe the subject matter disclosed in the specification in accordance with United States practice. Further, Claims 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 17-19, 21-27, 29 and 30 have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies adapting the PCT application to US practice and reducing prosecution fees.

Attached hereto is a marked version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**In the Specification**

The Title has been changed as follows: ~~"Improvements Relating To an Inhalation Device"~~ to "Dose Protector for Inhalation Device"

In the Claims

Claims 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 17-19, 21-27, 29 and 30 have been amended as follows:

Claim 3. (Amended) A dose protector as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein the airflow through and/or pressure drop across the airway is caused by patient inhalation.

Claim 4. (Amended) A dose protector as claimed in claim 1 ~~claims 1 to 3~~ wherein the said covering means senses airflow through and/or pressure across drop the airway and responds thereto.

Claim 6. (Amended) A dose protector as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the covering means responds by covering the dose more effectively when the airflow through and/or pressure drop across the airway is in a second direction.

Claim 8. (Amended) A dose protector as claimed in claim 1 ~~claims 1 to 7~~ where the covering means comprises one or more poppet valves, diaphragm valves, rotary valves, reciprocating valves, sealing flaps or a combination thereof.

Claim 9. (Amended) A dose protector as claimed in any claim 1 ~~one of claims 1 to 8~~ wherein the dose is metered by volume of medicament or surface area.

Claim 12. (Amended) A dose protector as claimed in claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~ wherein the dose or container retaining the dose has a surrounding rim.

Claim 15. (Amended) A dose protector as claimed in claim 13 ~~or claim 14~~ additionally comprising a closure mechanism wherein the at least one sealing flap is held in contact with the pocket by a closure means which prevents the contact between the

at least one sealing flap and the pocket being broken by airflow through the airway in any direction.

Claim 17. (Amended) A dose protector as claimed in claim 13 ~~any one of claims 13 to 16~~ wherein the said sealing flap vibrates in the airflow once the contact with the pocket is broken.

Claim 18. (Amended) A dose protector as claimed in claim 13 ~~any one of claims 13 to 17~~ wherein the sealing flap is made of thermoset rubber.

Claim 19. (Amended) A dose protector as claimed in claim 13 ~~any one of claims 13 to 18~~ wherein the sealing flap is of equivalent or slightly reduced width relative to the distance between the inside walls of the housing at the base of the walls of the housing where the sealing flap is in contact with the pocket.

Claim 21. (Amended) A dose protector as claimed in claim 1 ~~claims 1 to 12~~ wherein the said covering means is spaced away from the dose or container retaining a dose to coincide with the airflow through and/or pressure drop across in the first direction once the contact with the dose or container retaining the dose is broken.

Claim 22. (Amended) A dose protector as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 21~~ wherein the covering means vibrates in the airflow through and/or pressure drop across the airway in the first direction.

Claim 23. (Amended) A dose container as claimed in claim 1 ~~claim: 1 to 22~~ wherein the housing contains a valve flap such that when the airflow is in a second opposite direction, the airflow exits the housing by means of the valve flap.

Claim 24. (Amended) A dose protector as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the said covering means protects the dose from the patient exhaling into the device, moisture contamination, particulate contamination and loss of the dose or a combination thereof.

Claim 25. (Amended) A dose protector as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 additionally comprising a fixed seal.

Claim 26. (Amended) A dose protector as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 25~~, in combination with a dose of medicament.

Claim 27. (Amended) An inhaler comprising a body, a mouthpiece, and a dose protector as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1.

Claim 29. (Amended) An inhaler as claimed in claim 26 ~~or claim 27~~ in combination with at least one dose of a medicament.

Claim 30. (Amended) Use of an inhaler as claimed in claim 27 ~~any one of claims 27 to 29~~ for the administration of medicament.